

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. Claims 1-11 cancelled.
12. (Currently Amended) A fusible conductor for a fuse element, said fusible conductor comprising:
  - an electrically insulating core;
  - a fusible wire wound about the core forming a plurality of windings; and
  - an electrically insulated fibre wound about the core and disposed between ~~adjacent to~~ each of said plurality of fusible wire windings such that the insulating fibre is ~~fixed in position adjacent each winding of the~~ a fusible wire of a subsequent winding.
13. Cancelled.
14. (previously presented) The fusible conductor of claim 12, wherein both fusible wires and also the insulating fibre have an approximately circular cross section and the ratio of the diameter of the fusible wire to that of the insulating fibre is between 1/3 and 3.
15. (previously presented) The fusible conductor of claim 14, wherein the ratio of the diameter of the fusible wire to that of the insulating fibre is between 1 and 3.
16. (previously presented) The fusible conductor of claim 12, wherein the fusible wire has an approximately circular cross section and wherein the insulating fibre is situated between adjacent turns of the fusible wire such that the spacing between the turns is 0.2 to 2 time the diameter of the fusible wire.
17. (previously presented) The fusible conductor of claim 16, wherein the spacing between turns is smaller than the diameter of the fusible wire

18. (previously presented) The fusible conductor of claim 16, wherein the outer surface of the wound fusible wire projects beyond the outer surface of the insulating fibre.
19. (previously presented) The fusible conductor of claim 14, wherein the core has a circular cross section and the cross sectional dimensions of the insulating fibre are smaller than the diameter of the core.
20. (previously presented) The fusible conductor of claim 1, wherein the insulating fibre consists of one or more glass fibres.
21. (previously presented) The fusible conductor of claim 1, wherein the insulating fibre consists of one or more ceramic fibres.
22. (previously presented) The fusible conductor of claim 1, wherein the core consists of one or more glass fibres.
23. (Currently Amended) The fusible conductor of claim 12 wherein said insulating fibre has an approximately circular cross section having a given diameter and is configured to deform to a flattened strip when wound about ~~substantially flat cross section disposed around~~ said core.
24. (Currently Amended) A fusible conductor for a fuse element comprising:  
an electrically insulating core;  
a fusible wire wound about said core forming a plurality of windings;  
an insulating fibre ~~adjacent~~ wound about the core and disposed between each of  
~~said to each of said~~ plurality of fusible wire windings such that the insulating fibre is  
adjacent a fusible wire of a subsequent winding, said insulating fiber having an  
approximately circular cross section and configured to deform ~~to have~~ a relatively flat  
cross section when wound ~~disposed~~ around said core.